

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 18, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-15 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-4 and 7-13 were rejected, and Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 were objected to. Claims 1, 6, 12 and 15 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Claims 5 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that the limitations of Claims 5 and 14 have been incorporated into Independent Claims 1 and 12, respectfully. Applicants submit that Independent Claims 1 and 12, as amended, are now in condition for allowance and requests favorable action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-13 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,494,088 issued Roland Albert et al. ("Albert et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

As discussed above, Independent Claims 1 and 12 now incorporate the limitations from Claims 5 and 14 which Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections under §102 and full allowance of Independent Claims 1 and 12 and Claims 2-4, 6, 7-11, 13 and 15 which depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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Andreas Grubert
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